



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE **JESSE YOUNG**

## **2015 – 2016 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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### **26TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

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#### **COMMITTEES:**

- o Technology and Economic Development
- o Transportation
- o Rules

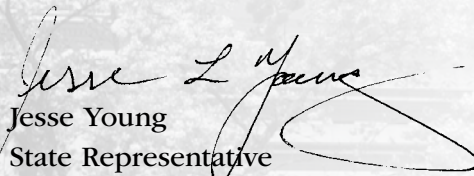
Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The 2015 & 2016 sessions have concluded and I wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the victories we've achieved.

From the first day I was elected to serve you, my job has been to listen, act, and be an effective voice on the issues we all care about. My priorities have been focused around fiscal responsibility, creating opportunities through jobs, innovation and economic growth, and fostering a high quality educational system for our children.

This legislative session review highlights some of the work we've accomplished during the 2015 – 2016 session. It's a true honor serving you.

Sincerely,

  
Jesse Young  
State Representative  
26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



## Promise Kept #1

### Commitment Honored: Reducing tolls on the Narrows Bridge

We all know the frustration with the tolling situation on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB). Not only has it been a genuine and prime focus of mine, I have heard over and over from you the concerns about when the TNB toll increases will end. Our bridge is used by thousands of people each day and it is a constant disappointment that the **Governor-appointed Transportation Commission continues to ignore our officially appointed Citizens Advisory Committee** recommendations on toll management. Instead, they've chosen to make toll increases the status quo rather than sitting down and finding a solution.

**This session, I set out to end this and am proud to report we achieved success.** Through the budgeting process, I pushed forward a solution that not only reverses the toll increases that were set to take effect this summer, but also



takes us a step closer to further reducing toll increases on our bridge. For the first time, despite the Transportation Commissions' claims that it couldn't be done, direct funding from the Motor Vehicle Fund account has been used to support our TNB. We've successfully laid the ground work for new innovative ways to save and generate revenue. Currently, I have *seven different avenues* (bills and budget solutions) being worked on the TNB that will be reintroduced next session. Rest assured, **I will not let up** until we have the long-term, viable solutions we expect.

## Promise Kept #2

### Commitment Honored: Balanced Budget

Throughout this session, standing up for a **true balanced budget** – one that promotes fiscal responsibility through discipline, innovation, common sense and improved efficiencies – has been a central focus of mine. Keeping this promise has resulted in the following successes:

- **We did not raise taxes** and promoted economic and job growth.
- Stabilizes, and prudently stops the sweeping of our state's "rainy day fund".
- Provides more treatment support and better funding for our mental health system.
- Expands support to those in economic need; especially children encountering poverty and homelessness as I once did.
- Holds strong to the disciplined four-year budget outlook.



## Promise Kept #3

### Commitment Honored: Supporting students and teachers alike

In previous sessions, I voted against operating budgets because they did not fund teacher COLAs. As promised, I stood my ground and worked across the aisle to get a budget which finally **restores teacher COLAs**. We also successfully raised teacher salaries, addressed the teacher shortage problem, and enhanced recruitment. Additionally, I also led the charge against the burdensome "top down" mandates on teachers and school administrators. A high quality education must inspire students' natural curiosity and support their desire to grow and learn. Restoring the flexibility and professional judgment of our teachers is key and you can expect me to continue this fight!

We achieved two major student victories this session:

- **Historic reductions in tuition costs for higher education**, including career and technical colleges. The skyrocketing costs are borderline predatory and clearly unsustainable. These cuts were desperately needed and establish a model for the rest of the country to follow.
- Through strong bipartisan persistence, **we saved our public charter schools!** I am proud to have voted in support to fully fund the Washington Charter School Commission ensuring our public charter schools continue to operate and provide a quality education to the students and parents they serve.



# Important legislation of the 2016 session

## Human health, small business, and the environment – The key to bipartisan support

I am really excited to report we achieved a MAJOR small business and environmental WIN for our district and state this session with a bill that I bipartisanly co-sponsored with Representative Strom Peterson (D-Shoreline). In a nut shell, **Substitute House Bill 2357** allows owners of underground storage tanks (USTs), which are nearing the end of their useful lifespan, to secure financing and procure insurance and specialized enforcement from the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency (PLIA). This **helps ensure small gas stations and other family-owned businesses dealing with USTs, are not regulated out of business.** As an added bonus, we also put into place a mechanism whereby gas stations owners, if they so choose, can opt to secure additional financing to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations as they're replacing their USTs. This is a double win as many gas station owners view EV charging stations as an opportunity for increasing in-store sales, which helps their bottom line.

As you know, Olympia can often times get bogged down in partisan politics. Bills like this show that it is very possible to get meaningful work done. What's more, the protection of human health and our environment is something I support with as much enthusiasm as fiscal responsibility and economic growth. When we roll up our sleeves, check our egos at the door, and work together, everyone gets the representation they deserve and solutions to benefit both our economy and environment can be achieved. This bill goes into effect June 2016.



*Rep. Jesse Young along with staff from the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency watch as Gov. Jay Inslee signs House Bill 2357 into law.*



*Rep. Jesse Young along with staff from the Peninsula Light Company with Gov. Jay Inslee as House Bill 2457 is signed into law.*

**infrastructure we depend on**, especially in rural areas, while also helping to keep rates low and reliable. When it comes to helping those living on a fixed income who are depending on heat and electricity, every little detail counts. This goes into effect June 9.

## Protecting utility ratepayers

I am proud to report that legislation I sponsored to protect utility ratepayers and property owners alike was signed into law this session. HB 2457 protects utility ratepayers if a lien or tax encumbrance is placed on a property.

Some of the legislation we work on is complex and isn't typically glamorous when it comes to reporting, however that doesn't make it any less important.

This legislation **protects the**

## A sample of my “in-flight” Legislation

- **HB 2506** – Implementing federal regulations on electric generation facilities and strengthening the diversity of our baseload capabilities
- **HB 2670** – Reducing teaching mandates and altering the school assessment system to empower teachers to focus on teaching and learning
- **HB 2699** – Sale of software used in the unauthorized interference of ticket sales over the internet
- **HB 2717** – Toll by Coffee: Identifying opportunities, and if appropriate, submitting an invitation for bids or request for proposals to contract with concessionaires to operate on and collect tolls for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge
- **HB 2780** – Textbook Affordability via Open Sourcing (TAVOS) Act: Making higher education more affordable by providing incentives for the use of open source instructional materials in lieu of the forced purchase of monopolized hyper-inflated textbooks.
- **HB 2833** – Little Toasters Act: Establishing a competitive educational grant program to promote confidence, public speaking, and leadership skills in students by partnering with Toastmaster volunteer mentors.
- **HB 3005** – Improving constituent access and representative engagement.
- **HB 3007** – Supporting the exercise of expressive rights following school sports activities and 1st Amendment rights.

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**2015 – 2016  
Session Highlights**

- ✓ Addressing Washington State Patrol recruitment, retention and pay raises
- ✓ Establishing the Washington Cybercrime Act
- ✓ Establishing forest resiliency burning pilot project
- ✓ Expanding prescription drug donation program
- ✓ Holding state government accountable; especially the Department of Corrections and the DOT.
- ✓ Showing that we can successfully balance the budget, grow our economy, and support our critical needs WITHOUT raising taxes.

**2015 - 2016 Capital Budget Highlights: Funding and Authorizations for 26th District projects**

**Bremerton**

- Turner Joy hull repairs - \$300,000
- Olympic College, College Instruction Center - \$46.5 million
- Admiral Theatre Renovation - \$100,000

**Port Orchard**

- SK High School Navy Junior RTOC program - \$30,000
- DeKalb Street Pier - \$500,000
- Bay Street Pedestrian Path Mosquito Fleet Trail - \$106,000
- McCormick Village Park - \$386,000

**Key Peninsula**

- Gateway Park Development - \$500,000
- Minter Hatchery Intakes - \$250,000
- Key Pen Civics Center - \$50,000

**Gig Harbor**

- Ancich Netshed Restoration - \$662,000
- Youth Activity Wing at the Tom Taylor Family YMCA - \$515,000
- Harbor History Museum, Shenandoah Restoration - \$41,000

**Local Area Waterway, Infrastructure, and Environment**

- Waterman Fishing Pier & Seawall Renovation - \$500,000
- Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails - \$52,000
- Ancich Waterfront Park - \$500,000

**Thank you for your confidence! It is an honor and pleasure to serve.**